

NBVC Sailors join in Armed Forces Day Parade

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TORRANCE, Calif.- America's military forces were honored here in the 43rd Annual Armed Forces Day Parade Saturday, May 18.

Torrance began this lasting tradition back in 1960 when former mayor Al Isen and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, put together the first parade as a tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces. Since then, the parade has grown and become one of the largest Armed Forces Day Parades in America. It also gives Torrance the bragging rights for hosting the longest-running military parade sponsored by any city in the nation.

Each year Torrance selects one service to focus recognition on and designates it as the "honored service" during the celebration. One member from that service is then invited to act as the parade's Grand Marshal.

This year the city chose the Air Force and invited Lt. Gen. Brian A. Arnold to act as the Grand Marshal. Following the official color guard, the Grand Marshal began the celebration by traveling the parade route waving from his car, then taking his place in the reviewing stands as the Official Reviewing Officer of the Parade.

Other guests in the Prologue included Army Maj. General Robert B. Ostenberg, Marine Brig. Gen. (Sel) Mary Ann Krusa-Dossin, Navy Rear Admiral Casey Coane, Air Force Colonel Harry Talbot, Coast Guard Rear Admiral Mary O'Donnell and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Edward Foster.

Following the prologue were several divisions, most of which were military color guards, military marching bands, high school marching bands, uniformed battalions, several military schools and military floats.

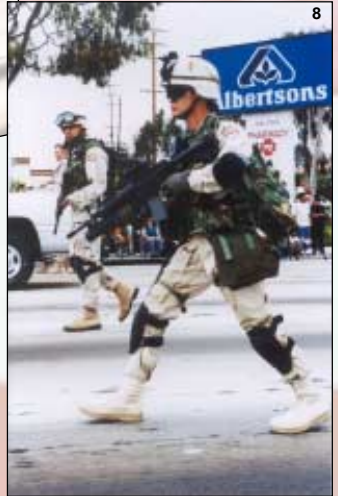
One float in particular this year drew in some well deserved attention. Naval Base Ventura County's missile float seemed to be a crowd favorite. As the float passed by, spectators could be heard shouting cheers, thanks, and expressing their love for the United States Navy.

This year's float was manned by four Sailors of the Year from Ventura County, AMS1 Charito Casabar of AIMD, CM1 David Pilcic of MUSE, NC1 Paul A. Tyquengco of NBVC and Naval Air Reserve's PN1 Gretchen Jonas.

Many of the more popular floats were directed to the north end of the Del Amo Mall after the parade, where they were open for display to the public along with several other military exhibits.

The parade concluded with the United States Air Force Delayed Enlistment Ceremony, which was administered by the Grand Marshal.

The Armed Forces Parade began as a way for a small town to thank America's servicemembers, and has since then grown to a nationally recognized celebration. Former Mayor Al Isen once said the parade's goal was to "increase public respect and understanding for military service and promote civic-military relationships." If the former Mayor were here today, he would be proud to see that what he began back in 1960 still carries on strong today.



1. Ventura County Sailors wave to the crowd as they pass through the 1 1/2 mile parade route.
2. A Bradley fighting vehicle rolls through an intersection.
3. A miniature Air Force Thunderbird plane is used to attract potential recruits.
4. The owner of this detailed USS Nevada battleship replica waves proudly.
5. The 82nd Airborne WWII Living History Association shows their firepower, past and present.
6. Civil War re-enactors made their presence known firing rifle blanks into the air.
7. Navy Band Southwest plays patriotic Navy songs as they pass Crenshaw Blvd.
8. Soldiers are decked out in full desert combat gear, ready for action.